

Eight participants at the 7-Day Divine Principle Seminar at IPEC in Las Vegas

Andrew Compton

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For one week in August, Reverend Andrew Compton walked eight participants through the major teachings of the Divine Principle, a guidebook for members of the Unification Movement. What is the purpose of life? And how can we create a world of peace? These were the questions asked and answered at the latest Divine Principle Seminar, hosted by the International Peace Education Center (IPEC) in Las Vegas. Participants learned about God’s ideal for humanity, as well as the reasons why that ideal has not yet been realized.

Most of the participants were young adults who grew up in the Unification Movement and came to the seminar to better understand their faith tradition. Before the workshop, young Unificationist K. Hillier, who has studied religious texts on her own, prayed to God for help and answers. Reluctant at first, she decided to attend the workshop after a strong push from her mother. “So many questions have been answered... I feel like the ‘seven-days-ago me’ is different from who I am now,” she said. Other participants showed similar enthusiasm. “I learned to think like God and have a heart of love like God,” said young Unificationist S. Falconi.

In addition to the five young people in attendance, the latest IPEC seminar included one adult participant who is new to the teachings of Unificationism. Unificationists embrace individuals from all over the world, and many Unificationists take for granted the multiculturalism that they experience daily. Sometimes, it takes fresh eyes to remind us how beautiful it is to see different races together. “To meet all these people from different cultures brought tears into my eyes!” said guest F. Tamajong. “I have been so blessed coming here and have realized how much God loves me and wants the best for me.”

One couple who has been active in the movement for many years was especially grateful to spend a week together studying Divine Principle. “Participating as husband and wife together was very helpful,” reflected Masako Aull, who believes that the week she and her husband spent in Las Vegas helped save their marriage. “This was a wonderful gift,” she said, adding that other couples will benefit by attending the program together.